



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

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May 3, 2013

Dear University of Texas at Dallas E-Plan User:

Over 7,400 of you are registered to use the E-Plan SARA Title III Tier II 2 hazmat information located at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas). Many of you are members of the E-Plan Users Group which has provided key information for the design and use of this program. Several changes have been made over the past several years to make the E-Plan better and more user friendly thanks to your guidance. UT Dallas firmly believes that systems such as E-Plan must be guided by the users.

Currently 39 states are E-Plan users. In an effort to save time and money 8 of these states require their hazmat facilities to enter and update their Tier II data directly into E-Plan rather than collect the data themselves. 3 states allow their companies to enter their data into E-Plan and 2 more states are planning to allow and/or require their hazmat facilities to enter and update their data into E-Plan. The state and first responders can then retrieve up-to-date information anytime they wish.

The highly secure and reliable E-Plan hazmat program started with funding from the EPA in October of 2000 as an effort to help save lives and minimize property damage when responding to hazardous materials events. Support from EPA continued until the program was picked up by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under contract 4 years ago. UT Dallas received an excellent review from DHS at the end of the 4 year contract.

Unfortunately DHS did not elect to continue funding after September 30, 2012. What this means is that UT Dallas will need to terminate the E-Plan program on August 31, 2013 without your support. E-Plan costs are approximately one million dollars a year and DHS is funding many millions of dollars on other hazardous chemical facility programs that are less useful to Local Emergency Planning Committees, hazmat facilities and first responders.

We need your help in our attempt to receive federal funding for this program of national importance. There are several ways you could help us accomplish this task:

- 1) We highly encourage you to contact your congressman and/or the Department of Homeland Security legislative chair. DHS and other federal sources respond better to their constituents' request.
- 2) We also recommend that you send UT Dallas a letter of support regarding the continuation of E-Plan. We would use that letter to request federal financial support as well as other resources.

Additionally:

- 3) There could be a small charge of \$25 per facility from the organizations that use E-Plan for their Online Tier II Reporting System.
- 4) States that have adopted E-Plan could possibly provide financial support.

Please respond with your recommendations or inform us of any actions you have initiated by May 31, 2013, to eplan@utdallas.edu. Your help to save this program of great national and local importance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

E. Douglas Harris

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